

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 103 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, NEILSON, PASHINSKI, DALEY, ISAACSON,
MADDEN, SMITH-WADE-EL, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN, HILL-EVANS, DELLOSO,
D. WILLIAMS, O'MARA, HADDOCK, MALAGARI, STURLA, GUENST AND
HOHENSTEIN, MAY 10, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MAY 10, 2023

A RESOLUTION

Urging the Congress of the United States to establish a national infrastructure bank.

WHEREAS, Our nation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are in the midst of an infrastructure crisis that is exacerbated by a substantial shortfall in infrastructure spending; and

WHEREAS, The 2021 Infrastructure Report Card from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave the United States a cumulative grade of "C-" across 17 categories; and

WHEREAS, To close the nearly \$2.59 trillion 10-year investment gap, meet future needs and restore our global competitive advantage, we must increase investment from all government levels and the private sector from 2.5% to 3.5% of United States Gross Domestic Product by 2025; and

WHEREAS, ASCE found that continued failure to invest in improvements by 2039 will have serious economic consequences, including \$10 trillion in losses to the national gross domestic product and job losses of more than 3 million; and

WHEREAS, The infrastructure crisis in Pennsylvania mirrors that of the country at large; and

WHEREAS, ASCE's 2022 Infrastructure Report Card gave Pennsylvania a cumulative grade of "C-" across 15 categories, including a "C-" for roads, a "D+" for bridges and a "D" for public transit; and

WHEREAS, ASCE noted that Pennsylvania ranks 45th in the nation in terms of congestion delays, jeopardizing key freight routes; and

WHEREAS, ASCE further noted that Pennsylvania's aging drinking water infrastructure poses increased public health risks and will require an additional \$10.2 billion in funding over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, It is past time that the Federal Government develop a collaborative solution to these infrastructure problems through the establishment of a national infrastructure bank; and

WHEREAS, A national infrastructure bank is not a new idea, having been successfully implemented first by President George Washington and Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton and later by Presidents John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, Previous national infrastructure banks established by the Congress of the United States were instrumental in financing the roads, bridges, canals, roadways, schools, hospitals and power systems that made our country the envy of the world; and

WHEREAS, A national infrastructure bank that partners with state and local governments can supply the needed financing to bring infrastructure to a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, This investment would restart various industries in Pennsylvania, creating millions of new high-paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, The National Congress of Black Women, Democratic Municipal Officials, National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, National Federation of Federal Employees and numerous other organizations have endorsed the establishment of a national infrastructure bank; and

WHEREAS, Various state and local governments have passed resolutions supporting the establishment of a national infrastructure bank; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to establish a national infrastructure bank; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.